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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Federal-State Joint Board on	)	CC Docket No. 96-45
Universal Service	)	
	)	
	)	
Forward-Looking Mechanism	)	CC Docket No. 97-160
For High Support for	)	
Non-Rural LECs	)	

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION**  
**BY**  
**ALIAN T COMMUNICATIONS CO.**

Aliant Communications Co. ("Aliant"), by its attorneys, respectfully submits a request for an extension of the data request deadline in the above-referenced proceeding. Aliant has an operating territory in the 958 LATA, which lies primarily in southeastern Nebraska with a few subscribers in Kansas and Iowa. Aliant is a non-rural Tier I carrier with over 200,000 access lines in service.

The Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") has ordered revenue information from non-rural local exchange carriers and holding companies to assist in the consideration and development of a revenue benchmark. This request consists of Chart 1, seeking data for a January 1996 through June 1998 time period, and Charts 2 – 5, seeking data for July 1998.

Aliant has reviewed the data request and believes it can file Charts 4 and 5 on October 6, 1998, the filing deadline the Commission established. Availability of data for Charts 2 and 3 is still being investigated at this time.

Chart 1, however, presents a problem for Aliant. This chart asks for 30 months of historical data beginning with January 1996. Aliant has never had a need to maintain the data necessary to complete this chart in any type of database; therefore, it must process archived computer billing tapes to obtain the data. This entails processing over 400 computer billing tapes. For Aliant, this constitutes a major commitment in manpower and hardware resources.

Aliant does not have the resources available to process this number of tapes and complete Chart 1 by October 6, 1998. Aliant cannot process this number of tapes and commit the necessary manpower to this project without interrupting normal day-to-day operations, including customer service processing, billing cycles, accounting processes, dialing parity, local number portability and CPNI projects, state-ordered regulatory projects, payroll, etc.

In order that it may provide the necessary data needed to complete Chart 1 of the Revenue Benchmark Data Request, Aliant asks for a sixty-two day extension, to December 7, 1998, of the response deadline. This extension is for Chart 1 only. Aliant is diligently working on Charts 4 through 5 and fully expects to file these charts on October 6. Availability of data for Charts 2 and 3 is still being investigated.

To enable it to complete Chart 1 with actual data, Aliant must know by September 16 if the extension is granted. As a mid-size company, Aliant does not have the resources, either manpower, software, or hardware, to complete Chart 1 by December 7 if it cannot begin the process by September 16. Until then, Aliant's resources are being utilized in obtaining the data necessary for Charts 2 through 5. If an extension of the filing deadline to December 7 is not granted by September 16, Aliant will not be able to provide accurate data by October 6.

For the foregoing reasons, Aliant requests grant of the extension of time discussed herein.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Mazer", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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Dated: September 8, 1998

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Request for Extension by Aliant Communications Co. was sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, this 8th day of September, 1998, to each of the following:

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